



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KANSAS MAN INDICTED FOR ARMED BANK ROBBERY, CARJACKING, FIREARMS VIOLATIONS**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Shawnee, Kan., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for armed bank robbery, as well as attempted carjacking and various federal firearms violations allegedly committed in the course of the robbery.

**Cleophus Darnell James**, 41, of Shawnee, was charged in a five-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. Graves explained that today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint that was filed against **James** on Aug. 13, 2004.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **James** took approximately \$15,000 from tellers at Bank of America, 661 N.W. 55<sup>th</sup> Terrace in Kansas City, Mo., by use of force, violence or intimidation on Aug. 12, 2004. In committing the robbery, the indictment alleges, **James** assaulted and put in jeopardy the lives of the tellers, other employees, and customers present at the bank by use of a dangerous weapon.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **James** used and carried a semi-automatic handgun during and in relation to the crime of violence alleged in Count One, that is, armed bank robbery.

Count Three of the federal indictment charges **James** with attempted carjacking, alleging that on the day of the bank robbery he also attempted to steal a 1995 Infiniti G-20 from another person by force, violence, and intimidation, and with intent to cause serious bodily harm.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **James** used and carried a semi-automatic handgun during and in relation to the crime of violence alleged in Count Three, that is, attempted carjacking.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **James** was a felon in possession of a firearm. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **James** was allegedly in possession of a semi-automatic firearm and ammunition on Aug. 12, 2004. According to the indictment, **James** has been convicted of at least three violent felony offenses in the District Courts of Sedgwick, Wyandotte and Montgomery counties in Kansas.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda Parker Marshall. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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